

**2026 Proposed Amendments to the Code of Constitutions
of the
Grand Lodge of North Carolina**

Amendment Group 1

This Amendment was proposed by Stanly Lodge 348 at Albemarle and would require the oldest lodge to take precedent in name and number when lodges consolidate.

REG. 48-3 CONSOLIDATED LODGE. The name and number of the consolidated lodge ~~should~~ shall be that of the oldest lodge consolidated considering the date of charter, and no new charter shall be necessary, nor shall it be necessary to constitute the lodge again.

REG 48-3.3 The bylaws of the consolidated lodge shall be ~~determined by resolution~~ (Form 16) those of the senior lodge which were in effect at the time of the consolidation, and the stated communication of the consolidated lodge, until properly changed, shall be at the time fixed in those by-laws.

Amendment Group 2

The following amendment has been submitted by Grand Master Kevan D. Frazier referred to Committee at the 2025 Annual Communication and brought forward by Grand Master Norris for 2026. This amendment would amend Regulation 34 to permanently create an Insurance Management Committee. It would also establish a new subsection in the Table of Contents of the Code for this Committee.

Chapter 34 – Grand Lodge Committees

Table of Contents

Index

Committee on Insurance

Reg. 34-26 Members

Reg. 34-27 Matters Referred

Reg. 34-28 Duties and Powers

Chapter 34 – Grand Lodge Committees

Committee on Insurance

REG. 34-26 MEMBERS. The Committee on Insurance shall consist of five members, appointed by the Grand Master and confirmed by the Grand Lodge, each of whom shall be a member in good standing and well-informed in insurance best practices.

1. Members of this committee shall not bid, participate, or contract insurance services for the Grand Lodge, nor shall their associates, family members, or any other person whereby a conflict of interest may be of disservice to the fraternity.
2. The Grand Master shall name the chairman of the Committee on Insurance.
3. At each annual communication of the Grand Lodge the Grand Master shall appoint one member to serve for five years.
4. A vacancy in the Committee on Insurance occurring when the Grand Lodge is in recess shall be filled by the Grand Master until the next succeeding annual communication of the Grand Lodge when the vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term on nomination of the Grand Master-elect and confirmation of the Grand Lodge.
5. A quorum of the Committee on Insurance shall consist of three or more members.

REG. 34-27 MATTERS REFERRED. Matters which shall be referred to the Committee on Insurance and its duties relative to these and other things are as follows.

1. To review all proposals to establish, amend, or cancel any guidelines or policies related to the Insurance Coverage applicable for all properties of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina or properties of subordinate lodges.
2. To review all questions touching upon insurance matters of the Grand Lodge and its subordinate lodges.
3. Any other matters that may be referred to it by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master.

REG. 34-28 DUTIES AND POWERS. The duties and powers of the Committee on Insurance are as follows.

1. To annually review the list of current subordinate lodges to ensure each lodge has insurance coverage.
2. To ensure each subordinate lodge, not under the umbrella coverage of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, has adequate coverage for all requirements specified throughout the Code, including but not limited to coverage for fundraisers and required bonding levels for lodge treasurers and secretaries.
3. To recommend to the Board of General Purposes any additions, revisions, deletions, or amendments to the Grand Lodge Insurance Policy.

Amendment Group 3

The following amendment was proposed by the Lodge Service Commission. It is implied in the code that investments and revenue from sources other than dues may not be used to pay for the ongoing operational costs of a lodge or used in such a manner as to cause the dues to be artificially low.

REG. 77-1 MINIMUM DUES. Each lodge shall fix in its by-laws and shall collect such annual dues from its membership as may be necessary to enable it to maintain itself and discharge all of its duties and obligations. Income or revenue from sources other than dues shall not be used to pay for the ongoing operational costs of the lodge or used in such a manner as to cause the dues to be artificially low.

Amendment Group 4

This amendment was proposed by the Lodge Service Commission. We have existing Temple Corporations and will need to create more in the future as lodges share meeting spaces in lieu of consolidation. The following amendments are recommended to facilitate this need.

SEC. 9-2 UNIFORM BY-LAWS. The Grand Lodge, if it deems proper, may prescribe from time to time a uniform system or code of by-laws for its subordinate lodges, except as to the day, hour, and building or hall for their stated communications, and the maximum amount to be charged as fees for the degrees, for affiliation, and for annual dues, and may require all lodges to use the same and no other. (Chapter 44) It may, if it deems proper, prescribe from time to time a uniform system or code of by-laws for temple corporations of its subordinate lodges, and may require all such temple corporations to use the same and no other.

REG. 25-2 SUBORDINATE LODGES. The same policy is stated for its subordinate lodges, except as provided by law, or as may be authorized by the Lodge Service Commission or Grand Master from time to time. (43-2.13; 43-8; 60-7; 86-2.46).

REG. 43-2 POWERS AND DUTIES

...

13. A lodge shall have and maintain complete control and authority over the use of its hall or meeting place by ownership or otherwise. Joint proprietorship with other societies or organizations is not favored by the Grand Lodge. Where other societies or organizations, other than another subordinate lodge of the Grand Lodge, occupy the same rooms with a subordinate lodge, all Masonic paraphernalia and property shall be removed immediately after the lodge is closed. (13-3.8.D; 25-2)

Amendment Group 5

*The following amendment has been submitted by Grand Master Steve M. Norris. This amendment would amend Chapter 11, Regulation 11-1.3 to add the offices of Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Pursuivant, and Grand Standard Bearer as offices that may be installed at the discretion of the grand master elect. The positions of Grand Sword Bearer and Grand Pursuivant were positions appointed and installed as early as 1797 with duties defined in the Code from 1875 until 1930 when their duties were removed from the 1924 version of the Code. The position of Grand Standard Bearer was listed as an office to be installed but was rarely utilized by this grand jurisdiction but is utilized by other grand jurisdictions. Many other grand jurisdictions annually appoint and utilize these three **non-advancing** additional grand lodge officers. This amendment would also amend Chapter 17, and add Regulations 17-10, 17-11 and 17-12 to add the description of the duties of the offices of Grand Sword Bearer, Grand Pursuivant, and Grand Standard Bearer.*

Chapter 11 Grand Officers' Rank, Designation, Title, Qualifications, Term, and Succession of Office

REG. 11-1 OFFICERS. The elective and appointive officers of the Grand Lodge, their ranks, designations, and titles shall be as follows:

...

3. The appointive grand officers who ~~shall not~~ may be installed are as follows: (17-5; 17-6; 17-7; 17-8; 17-9.1).

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Grand Chaplain | Worshipful |
| 2. Grand Historian | Worshipful |
| 3. Grand Lecturer | Worshipful |
| 4. Grand Orator | Worshipful |
| 5. Judge Advocate | Worshipful |
| <u>6. Grand Sword Bearer</u> | <u>Worshipful</u> |
| <u>7. Grand Pursuivant</u> | <u>Worshipful</u> |
| <u>8. Grand Standard Bearer</u> | <u>Worshipful</u> |

CHAPTER 17 Duties of Appointed Grand Officers

Reg. 17-10 DUTIES OF THE GRAND SWORD BEARER. It shall be the duty of the Grand Sword Bearer to carry the sword in processions of the Grand Lodge, assist the Grand Tyler on the outside when needed, and see that none but such as are entitled to do so shall pass into the Grand Lodge. His place is on the floor of the Grand Lodge is to the left of the Grand Pursuivant.

Reg. 17-11 DUTIES OF THE GRAND PURSUIVANT. It shall be the duty of the Grand Pursuivant to guard the entrance to the Lodge on the inside, when required to do so, and communicate with the Grand Tyler, and when required to announce to the Senior Grand Warden applicants for admission, and to the Grand Lodge the entrance of distinguished visiting brethren. He shall assist in maintaining order about the door, prevent those not entitled so to do from entering the Grand Lodge or passing inside thereof, and see that the brethren are seated. His place is on the floor of the Grand Lodge in front and to the left of the Senior Grand Warden.

Reg. 17-12 DUTIES OF THE GRAND STANDARD BEARER. It shall be the duty of the Grand Standard Bearer is to carry and uphold the banner of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of North Carolina on all occasions of ceremony and public procession. Your faithfulness of duty is essentially necessary at all communications. His place is on the floor of the Grand Lodge to the left of the Senior Grand Deacon.

Amendment Group 6

This amendment was proposed by the Finance Committee and restricts the power of the Grand Master as related to the annual budget adopted by the delegates of the Grand Lodge. It also amends the duties of the Grand Treasurer and expands the Powers and Authority of the Board of General Purposes and the Finance Committee.

Chapter 13-Powers, Duties and Expenses of the Grand Master

Reg. 13-4 Restrictions on Powers. The Grand Master has no authority to:

...

14. Amend or modify the budget adopted by the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication unless and until such budget amendment or modification has been considered by the Committee on Finance, a recommendation is made by the said Committee to amend or modify the budget and thereafter, the budget amendment or modification is adopted by not less than a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of General Purposes.

15. Spend, cause to be spent, authorize, direct, instruct, or order the Grand Treasurer or the Grand Secretary to disburse or expend funds of the Grand Lodge in an amount above any budgeted item adopted by the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication unless and until such expenditure has been considered by the Committee on Finance, said Committee has, by simple majority vote, recommended such expenditure and thereafter, the expenditure is approved by not less than a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of General Purposes.

Chapter 15-Duties of the Grand Treasurer

Reg. 15-1 Duties of the Grand Treasurer. The duties of the Grand Treasurer are as follows:

...

7. To pay warrants drawn on him authorized by the Grand Lodge or the Grand Master, not inconsistent with Regulation 13-4.15, and executed by the Grand Secretary.

Chapter 28-Board of General Purposes

Reg. 28-3 Powers and Authority. The objects and purposes, powers and authority, and limitations of the Board of General Purposes shall be as follows:

5. To receive and consider all recommendations referred by the Committee Finance to expend funds above any amount set forth in the budget adopted by the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication. Approval of any such expenditure shall require an affirmative vote of not less than 2/3 of the members of the Board of General Purposes.

Chapter 34-Grand Lodge Committees

Committee on Finance

Reg. 34-4 Matters Referred. Matters which shall be referred to the Committee on Finance and its duties relative to these and other things are as follows:

...

4. Consider all requests by the Grand Master, the Grand Treasurer or the Grand Secretary to expend funds of the Grand Lodge above any amount set forth in the budget adopted by the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication.

Reg. 34-5 Duties and Powers

The duties and powers of the Committee on Finance are as follows:

...

4. To address all requests by the Grand Master, the Grand Treasurer or the Grand Secretary to expend funds in excess of any amount set forth in the budget adopted by the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication and thereafter to make such recommendation to the Board of General Purposes, as may be appropriate, to approve or to refuse the expenditure of funds in excess of any amount set forth in the budget adopted by the Grand Lodge and its Annual Communication.

This amendment shall become effective upon adoption.